

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. A-71184/DJB/VEI/RBE
Attorney Matter No. 461124-00020
Application No. 09/980,956

REMARKS**RECEIVED
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Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 2-13, 15-20, 22-23, and 26-50 are pending in the application, with claims 13, 15, 19, and 29 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 14, 21, 24, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues and present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***Claims 2-7, 20, 25, and 26***

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-7, 20, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,232,792 to Reznikov ("Reznikov") in view of WO 97/35349 ("WO '349"). In the interest of expediting prosecution, claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form as noted below and is now allowable. As also noted below, claim 15 has been allowed by the Examiner. As claims 2-7, 20, and 26 now depend either from allowable claim 13 or allowed claim 15, these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 13 and 15. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 25 is rendered moot by the cancellation thereof.

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Claims 8-12, 17, and 18

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-12, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over one or more of the following references: Reznikov, WO '349, and WO 99/13522 ("WO '522"). In the interest of expediting prosecution and as noted below, claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form and is now allowable. As also noted below, claim 15 has been allowed by the Examiner. As claims 8-12, 17 and 18 now depend either from allowable claim 13 or allowed claim 15, these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 13 and 15.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 15, 16, 22, 23, and 27-29 are allowed and claims 13 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of intervening claim 12 and base claim 25. However, amended claim 13 does not include the limitations of claim 6 as Applicant believes these limitations are not necessary for patentability. In particular, amended claim 13 still calls for an aluminum coating partly diffused before oxidation. See Office Action of May 8, 2006, page 6, section 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is now allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 19 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 18 and 25 and is now allowable.

As all remaining claims, including new claims 30-50, each depend either from rewritten claim 13, allowed claim 15, rewritten claim 19, or allowed claim 29, Applicant submits that all claims are allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as 13, 15, 19, 25 and 29 noted above.

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Other Matters

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 30-50, which as noted above all depend from allowed claim 15 or rewritten claim 13, are allowable over the cited art of record for at least the same reasons. Claims 30-35 track the limitations of claims 2-5, 13, and 26 but depend from claim 15. Claims 36-45 track the limitations of claims 2-10 and 26 but depend from claim 15. Claims 46-50 track the limitations of previous claims 15, 16, 19, 27, and 28 but depend from amended claim 13.

Also, an Initial Application Data Sheet is submitted herewith to update the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's records with the correct spelling of the inventor's last name.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 461124-00020; Docket No. A-71184/DJB/VEJ/RBE).

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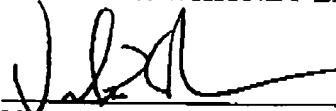
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Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/11/2006

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